Constitution of Medical Boards in hospitals

†4845. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Medical Board in the Government hospitals for the convenience of handicapped persons and for post-mortem;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would issue instructions for constitution of Medical Boards in all Government hospitals without any delay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. In so far as Central Government are concerned such Medical Boards already exist in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Use of medicinal plants

4846. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has devised adequate provisions to encourage sustainable use of medicinal plants and attach conservation values to them so that Ayurvedic System is strengthened;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the provisions are sufficient to protect this system of alternative medicine from world-wide companies patenting their drug development schemes based on traditional systems of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Medicinal Plants Board has been set up to ensure availability of medicinal plants used in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, and coordinate all matters relating to their conservation and development.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a collaborative project between the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy and National Institute of Science Communication (CSIR) has been initiated with the objective of protecting the grant of patents on Indian Traditional Knowledge, in particular Ayurveda in first phase of the project. On completion , the TKDL portal will be made available to patent examiners globally which will prevent patenting by others of our knowledge.

Inclusion of new hospitals under CGHS in Kolkata

4847. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new hospitals are being included in Kolkata to facilitate in-patient treatment to the CGHS card-holders; and

(b) if so, the details of hospitals and by when the scheme will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In March, 2001, tenders were called for fresh recognition of private hospitals / diagnostic centres under CGHS in Kolkata. These are under process. Until such time the fresh list is notified, the CGHS beneficiaries of Kolkata can continue to take treatment in the existing list of private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS, Kolkata *vide* Deptt. of Health's O.M. dated 27.2.1996, after following the prescribed procedure.

Pre-clinical tests of AIDS vaccine

4848. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the AIDS vaccine would enter the pre-clinical tests;

(b) whether it is a fact that vaccine would counter the strain of HIV sub-type 'C' which is prevalent in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government of India has entered into an agreement with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. USA for Research and Development in the field of HIV vaccine appropriate for HIV-I sub-type prevalent in the country. National AIDS Research Institute has already initiated basic research in this regard.